

Western Kentucky University news for the Council on Postsecondary Education, November 2015

For more WKU news, visit www.wku.edu/news.

WKU dedicates Honors College/International Center

In October WKU dedicated the \$22 million, nearly 70,000-square-foot, three-story Honors College/International Center.

The building houses the Honors College, Office of Scholar Development, Chinese Flagship program, Study Abroad and Global Learning, Office of International Programs, Kentucky Institute for International Studies, International

Enrollment Management, International Student Office, Navitas and English as a

Second Language International. The building also includes classrooms, study rooms and a thesis defense room. <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/10/23/honors-international-dedication/>



Officials dedicate the new Honors College/International Center.



Madison Thomas, president of WKU USGBC Students, unveiled the LEED certified plaque at Gary Ransdell Hall during a recognition ceremony.

WKU, USGBC recognize 3 LEED certified buildings

In a Campus Sustainability Day event, the U.S. Green Building Council recognized three buildings at WKU for achieving LEED certification.

Gary Ransdell Hall became WKU's first LEED certified building in 2011 and achieved LEED Gold certification. USGBC also has recognized Music Hall as LEED Silver and Augenstein Alumni Center as LEED Certified. Plaques were unveiled at each building.

Sustainability has a rich history at WKU, which has been a member of USGBC since 2007. The U.S. Green Building Council's

LEED® green building program is the preeminent program for the design, construction, maintenance and operations of high-performance green buildings. USGBC awards Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design certification at four levels – Certified, Silver, Gold and Platinum. <https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/10/28/leed-ceremony-2015/>



WKU wins national award for Literacy 199

WKU faculty members Daniel Super and Pam Petty and President Gary Ransdell were in Austin, Texas, recently to receive the Excellence in Innovation Award from AASCU for the Literacy 199 program. The for-credit intervention course was developed as an alternative to non-credit developmental courses to help students who are under prepared for college reading.

<https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/08/19/literacy-award/>

Nine Gatton Academy students honored for academic achievements

Seven seniors at the Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky at WKU have been named semifinalists in the 2015 National Merit Scholarship Program. Since The Gatton Academy's inception in 2007, 79 students have been named National Merit Semifinalists. Fifty-eight current Gatton Academy seniors took the PSAT, meaning 12.1 percent of the students made the National Merit Semifinalist level.

Two seniors were recognized as national semifinalists in the 2015 Siemens Competition in Math, Science, and Technology. The Siemens Competition, the nation's premiere science research competition for high school students, reports receiving more than 1,700 student submissions this year.

WKU PBS, PBS KIDS, Overstock.com team to provide books to children

Representatives of WKU PBS delivered two rounds of books to area children as part of its Reading Readiness campaign.

More than 300 books were distributed to students in Community Education after school programs. And more than 130 students served by the Housing Authority of Bowling Green received books. The books were made possible by a gift from WKU PBS, PBS Kids and Overstock.com.



WKU mascot Big Red entertains students at T.C. Cherry Elementary School as WKU PBS representatives delivered books as part of its Reading Readiness campaign.



Jody Dahmer

WKU student awarded State Department internship

WKU student Jody Dahmer of Fisherville, a junior Honors College and Chinese Flagship Program student with majors in Political Science and International Business, was awarded a prestigious internship in Washington, D.C., with the Department of State's Bureau of East Asia and Pacific Affairs in the Office of Regional Security Policy. The Bureau works with issues such as counter-terrorism, military relations and human rights across Asia.

Dahmer's idea of government work came through his involvement with the Chinese Flagship Program, working with the Taiwan-United States Sister Relations Alliance ambassadorial program, and working closely with Michael McClellan, WKU's Diplomat-in-Residence.

<https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/09/10/dahmer-internship/>

Roberts honored for impact on KY education

Julia Link Roberts has received the Distinguished Educator Award from the Kentucky Association of Teacher Educators, recognizing the impact she has had on teacher education and all facets of gifted education in Kentucky.

Dr. Roberts is the Mahurin Professor of Gifted Education at WKU as well as Executive Director of The Center for Gifted Studies and The Carol Martin Gatton Academy of Mathematics and Science in Kentucky.

<https://wkunews.wordpress.com/2015/09/25/roberts-kate-award/>



Julia Link Roberts speaks at the Kentucky Association of Teacher Educators conference after receiving the Distinguished Educator Award.